

ANDY TOBIN  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE H  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844  
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-5172  
CAPITOL FAX: (602) 417-3085  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404  
atobin@azleg.gov

DISTRICT 1



## Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

COMMITTEES:  
RULES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC  
RECORDS BOARD,  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

COMMITTEE

January 6, 2015

Mr. Brian Kamoie  
Assistant Administrator, FEMA,  
Grants Program Preparedness,  
Tech World Building - 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Tower,  
800 K Street NW,  
Washington, DC. 20001.

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

I met with the Yarnell Fire District leadership shortly after the tragic fire of June 2013, and have monitored the efforts to rebuild the department since that time. With a loss of a quarter of the homes in the District, the traditionally tight budget for this small community dropped 28%. Although aid to the department has been extraordinary, including a SAFER grant awarded in March of 2014, the Department's lead vehicle remains a liability of the YFD's ability to protect the community. The front line engine is a 1992 Pierce Arrow, and has cost the department \$30,000 in repairs over the last three years (over three-quarters of its purchase price of \$37,000). The last visit to the mechanic in October 2014 included free advice from the mechanic: "replace this vehicle as soon as possible, as the motor's days are numbered".

The YFD has applied for Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a new vehicle. We would appreciate any support you can provide in the Department's effort to receive this highly competitive grant. Typically, 10% of the vehicle grants are approved – and Yarnell is hoping to be among that 10%. The Application number is EMW-2014-FV-02102.

It has been inspiring to watch this small community use every resource at its disposal to rebuild. Approximately one quarter of the homes have been (or are in the process of being) rebuilt, and recovery efforts continue. I am proud to have been a part of the effort to honor the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots by helping Yarnell become a strong, vibrant community and I am hopeful that you can assist in this process, too.

With regard and appreciation,

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature, likely of Andy Tobin, on a dark background.

Andy Tobin  
Speaker of the House